

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 273

Reaffirming the special relationship between the United States and the  
Republic of the Philippines.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself and Mr. GILMAN) submitted the following  
concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Inter-  
national Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the special relationship between the United  
States and the Republic of the Philippines.

Whereas the United States and the Republic of the Phil-  
ippines have shared a special relationship of mutual ben-  
efit for more than 100 years;

Whereas 2001 marks the 50th anniversary of the United  
States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, signed at  
Washington on August 30, 1951 (3 UST 3947);

Whereas since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on  
the United States, the Philippines has been among the  
most steadfast friends of the United States during a time  
of grief and turmoil, offering heartfelt sympathy and sup-  
port;

Whereas after the United States launched its war of self-defense in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo immediately announced her Government's unwavering support for the operation, calling it "the start of a just offensive";

Whereas during United States operations in Afghanistan, the Government of the Philippines has made all of its military installations available to the United States Armed Forces for transit, refueling, resupply, and staging operations;

Whereas this assistance provided by the Philippines has proved highly valuable in the prosecution of the war in Afghanistan, as acknowledged by the Commander-in-Chief of United States Forces in the Pacific;

Whereas the Philippines also faces grave terrorist threats from the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, the National Democratic Front, and the radical Abu Sayaff group, as well as an armed secessionist movement, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front;

Whereas the Abu Sayaff group has historical ties to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaeda network, and has engaged in hundreds of act of terrorism in the Philippines, including bombings, arson, and kidnappings;

Whereas in May 2001, Abu Sayaff kidnapped United States citizens Martin Burnham, Gracia Burnham, and Guillermo Sobero, along with several Filipinos;

Whereas Abu Sayaff killed Mr. Sobero and continues to detain Martin Burnham and Gracia Burnham; and

Whereas the United States and the Philippines are committed to each other's security pursuant to the Mutual Defense Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3           (1) expresses its deepest gratitude to the Gov-  
4 ernment and people of the Philippines for their sym-  
5 pathy and support since the September 11, 2001,  
6 terrorist attacks on the United States;

7           (2) expresses its sympathy to the current and  
8 recent Filipino victims of terrorism and their fami-  
9 lies;

10          (3) affirms the commitment of the United  
11 States to the Republic of the Philippines pursuant to  
12 the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty;

13          (4) supports the Government of the Philippines  
14 in its efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism; and

15          (5) acknowledges the economic and military  
16 needs of the Philippines and pledges to continue to  
17 assist in addressing those needs.

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